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**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0015-EA

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of Livestock Grazing Permit # 051792 for Sheephorn Creek Ranch on Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) and Allotment 07551 9McPhee).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Kremmling Field Office (KFO) administered land includes all or part of the following:

Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill)
T.2S., R.81W., Sec. 3 and 10

Allotment 07551 (McPhee)
T.1S., R.81W., Sec. 20, 21, 27, 28, 33-35

APPLICANT: Robert Lindner

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns:

Robert Lindner owner of the Sheephorn Creek Ranch has requested relinquishment of his grazing preference on Allotment 07562 (Sheephorn) that has been attached to his livestock grazing permit. The letter of relinquishment is included as Attachment 1. He states he no longer has the number of livestock to stock this allotment and the allotment is no longer needed for their ranching operation. Allotment 07562 (Sheephorn) has a livestock grazing preference with 110 AUMs of permitted use of which 69 AUMs have been suspended leaving 41 AUMs of active use.

Allotments 07504 (Dice Hill) and 07551 (McPhee) were assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (Standards) on July 11, 2006. An interdisciplinary (ID) team from the Kremmling Field Office determined that both of the allotments are in compliance with all of the Standards. However, concern was expressed about a grassy area in Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) where the vegetation appeared stunted and weeds were evident. The ID team rated this area as marginally functioning. To improve the area, the permittee will initiate a best management practice (BMP) of placing salt away from the marginally functioning

grassy area to reduce grazing pressure and voluntarily moving cattle out of the area when needed.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action would renew livestock grazing permit # 051792 on Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) and Allotment 07551 (McPhee). Allotment 07562 (Sheephorn) would be relinquished and no longer be attached to this permit.

- The permit would be renewed for 10 years from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2019.
- The Standards Terms and Conditions would apply (see Attachment 2).
- There would be no changes to the season of number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of authorized grazing preference expressed in AUM* on Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) and Allotment # 07551 (McPhee).

* AUM = animal unit month = the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf for one month.

The renewed livestock grazing permit # 051792 would authorize livestock grazing to the following extent:

Allotment	Livestock Number Kind		Season of Use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
07504 (Dice Hill)	85	Cattle	6/16 – 9/30	100	299
07551 (McPhee)	55	Cattle	7/16 – 9/15	100	112

The total livestock grazing preference for permit #051792 would be 299 active AUMs for Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) and 112 active AUMs for Allotment 07551 (McPhee).

A copy of the proposed permit with standard terms and conditions is enclosed as Attachment 2.

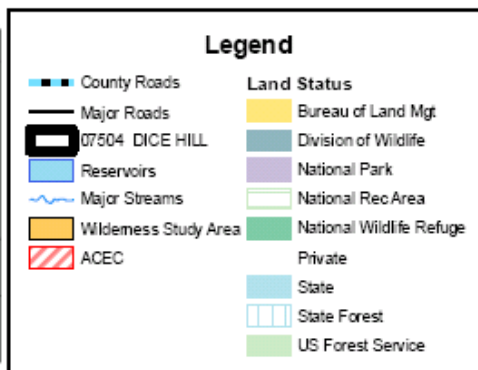
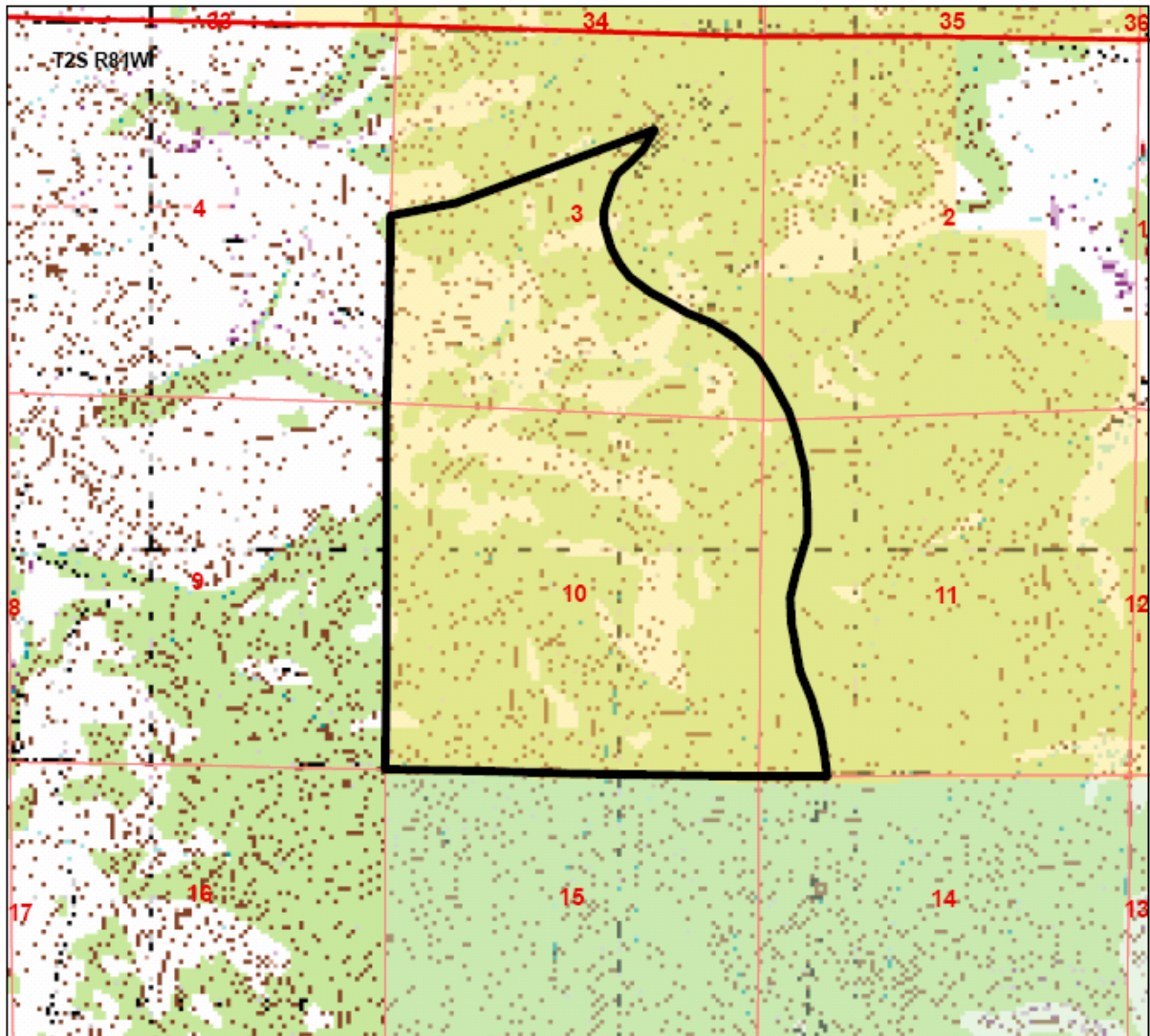
Design Features of the Proposed Action:

- The permittee would be responsible for notifying the BLM of all county listed noxious weeds which result from their livestock grazing operations.
- The BLM would be responsible for implementing control measures, which would include partnership with the Grand County Weed Abatement Program.
- The permittee has agreed to place salt and supplements at least ¼ mile away from the meadow where concerns were identified and to move his cattle away from this area when utilization levels are met.
- Temporary exemptions to the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan would include:
 - Permitting of motorized travel for fence maintenance. Permittee would travel only along fencelines for this purpose with no cross country travel permitted. In the event a fenceline is also a landownership boundary, all motorized travel would occur on the non-BLM side of the fence.

- Permit case-by-case motorized cross-country travel for instances of retrieving injured animals or other emergencies. All instances should be approved by the authorizing officer beforehand when possible. In the case of an emergency, any motorized cross-country travel would be reported to the BLM immediately. Any permitted or emergency cross-country travel will be evaluated for resource damage. Any rutting of soil or damage to vegetation found to be excessive and establishing a new route would have reclamation completed by the permittee.
- Specific restrictions and exemptions of the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan would be part of the Terms and Conditions of the grazing permit.



07504 DICE HILL



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

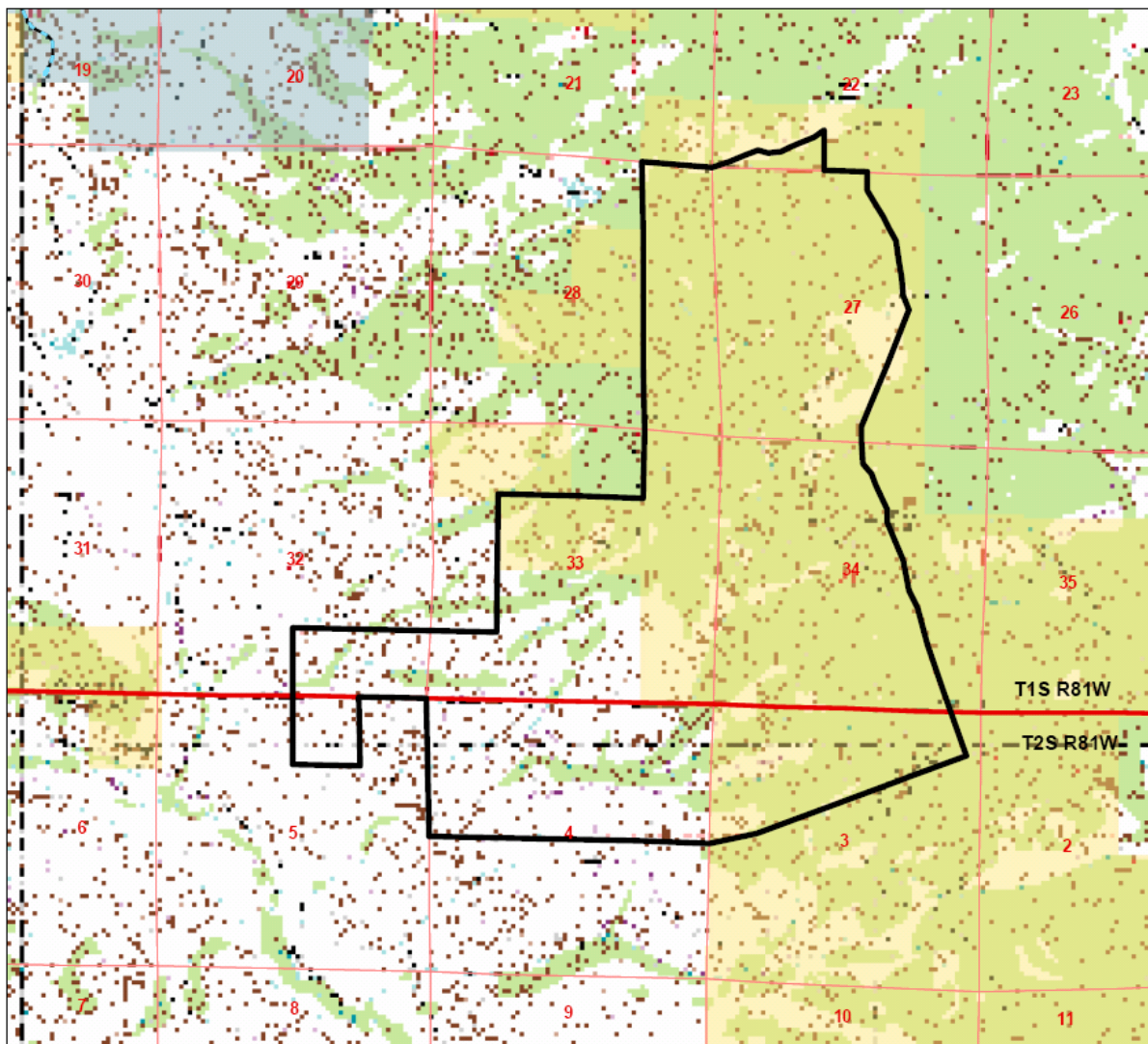
1:24,000

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data.

Maps: Sheephorn Mountain BLM, Kremmling FO 10/31/2008



07551 MCPHEE



Legend	
	County Roads
	Major Roads
	07551 MCPHEE
	Reservoirs
	Major Streams
	Wilderness Study Area
	ACEC
Land Status	
	Bureau of Land Mgt
	Division of Wildlife
	National Park
	National Rec Area
	National Wildlife Refuge
	Private
	State
	State Forest
	US Forest Service

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

1:33,207

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data.

Maps: Sheephorn Mountain BLM, Kremmling FO 10/31/2008

No Action Alternative (Continuation of Current Management): The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis:

No livestock grazing was considered but eliminated from further analysis for the following reasons:

- Livestock grazing with the Kremmling Field Office was fully analyzed and authorized in the RMP/EIS as recorded in the 1984 Approved Plan and Record of Decision. At that time a “No Grazing Alternative” was considered but not selected.
- This alternative is not consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) that stated: “the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from public lands.....”
- During public scoping and staff review there were no issues or concerns identified that would support a “No Grazing Alternative.”
- It has been determined that significant progress toward achieving compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado would occur with the appropriate livestock grazing guidelines set forth in the Proposed Action.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION:

Sheephorn Creek Ranch livestock grazing permit # 051796 that authorizes livestock grazing on Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) and 07551 (McPhee) expires on February 28, 2009. Sheephorn Creek Ranch has applied for the renewal of this permit. The permit is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to 10 years. Renewal of this permit would allow the Sheephorn Creek Ranch to continue grazing on Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) and 07551 (McPhee) for 10 years beginning on March 1, 2009.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Livestock Grazing; pages 6 and 8, as revised.

Decision Language: Objectives of the RMP/ROD include allocation of a base level of livestock forage and maintaining or improving forage production and condition in areas where livestock grazing is a priority or is compatible with the priority. The RMP designated the project

area with livestock and forest products priorities. Livestock grazing is compatible with these priorities.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Past actions such as livestock grazing, motorized travel, recreation, etc. that have caused disturbance of vegetation and soil have contributed to the invasion and spread of invasive, non-native species (noxious weeds). There are known invasive, non-native species (noxious weeds) growing within the allotment. These species include houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). These species are located along roadways, and in high-use areas, such as livestock watering areas. Soil or vegetation disturbing activities provide an avenue for the establishment and expansion of invasive, non-native species. The BLM monitors these known areas to control the spread of these species. Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) has numerous areas where the forest was clear cut about 10-15 years ago. These clear cut areas have been invaded by Canada thistle and musk thistle.

Environmental Consequences: Any type of soil or vegetation disturbance in an area where non-native, invasive species are established promotes their expansion. Although the renewed grazing permit would not change the livestock grazing management, there is always the chance for invasion or spread of invasive, non-native species.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: Allotment 07551 (McPhee) is authorized for 55 cattle to graze from July 16 through September 15 each year and Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) is grazed by 85 cattle from June 16 through September 30.

Environmental Consequences: Both allotments are in good condition except for the one grassy area in Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) that is near a water source. The permittee has agreed to place all salt or supplements at least ¼ mile from this area and to move his livestock should utilization levels be approached. There would be no changes to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of authorized grazing preference with implementation of the Proposed Action.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The open area within allotment 7504 is mapped as an Anvik-Skylick-Sligting association, 10-25% slopes in the Eagle County Soil Survey. The primary three soils are deep, with effective rooting depths of 60 inches or more. Permeability in the Anvik soil is moderate, and moderately slow to slow on the other soils. Plant available moisture varies from low to high across the three soils, and all three soils have moderate water erosion hazards. The association is generally shown as an Aspen range site

Environmental Consequences: The open area in allotment 7504 currently has sufficient vegetative cover to protect soils from erosion. If vegetative conditions decline, however, soil moisture and fertility will be impacted. The soils' slow permeability rates benefit from vegetative cover holding moisture on the site and slowing runoff that also erodes the soils. The Proposed Action includes reducing livestock "loafing" in the open area near the water trough with supplement placement and physically moving the animals. This helps insure that the vegetation is maintained or improved in the area, protecting soil health.

Since the No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action, the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The soils are meeting Standard # 1 (upland soils). By implementing the Proposed Action, soil health will be maintained over time.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Allotment 07551 (McPhee) is a mosaic of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) forest with interspersed open areas of sagebrush steppe, aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) groves, and small areas of spruce/fir (*Picea/Abies*) forests. Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) is also a mosaic of lodgepole pine and spruce/fir forests with sagebrush steppe and aspen groves interspersed among the forested area. Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) also has open grassy areas and open areas that were clear cut in the past.

The sagebrush steppe is dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) with an understory of perennial cool season grasses and annual and perennial forbs. The grasses include but are not limited to bluegrasses (*Poa* spp), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), pine needlegrass (*Achnatherum pinetorum*), bottlebrush squirreltail, (*Elymus elymoides*), fescues (*Festuca* spp), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), brome (*Bromus* spp), and prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*). Common forbs include wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp), lupine (*Lupinus agrenteus*), phlox (*Phlox* spp), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp), groundsel (*Senecio* spp), penstemons (*Penstemon* spp), pussytoes (*Antennaria* spp), daisies (*Erigeron* spp), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), milkvetch (*Astragalus* spp), arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), and mountain bluebell (*Mertensia lanceolata*). Other shrubs that inhabit the sagebrush steppe include snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp), broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*).

The forested areas have a poorly developed understory and vegetation diversity is low due to the single age class and dense canopy of lodgepole pine. Common plants include creeping juniper (*Juniperus communis*), kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), and grouse whortleberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*). A few annual forbs will grow when climatic conditions are favorable.

Aspen groves generally have an open canopy and have an understory that is rich in number and species of plants. Typical understory species include Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), alder (*Alnus incana*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp), buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*) and Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*). Grasses include bromes (*Bromus* spp), bluegrasses, fescues, muhlies (*Muhlenbergia* spp) and needlegrasses (*Stipa* spp). Aspen woodlands understories are generally luxuriant with a wide variety of dense forbs that include aspen peavine (*Lathyrus leucanthus*), asters (*Machaeranthera* spp), groundsels, arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), Richardson's geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp), and columbine (*Aquilegia coerulea*).

The grassy meadow areas within the forests are dominated by grasses and forbs with only a few shrubs, such as big sagebrush and rabbitbrush, and invading aspen seedlings present. The grasses found in these areas include the non-native Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) along with native grasses such as western wheatgrass, pine needlegrass, bluegrasses, fescues and muhly grasses (*Muhlenbergia* spp). Common forbs include groundsels, wild buckwheat, daisies, asters, yarrow, and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and herbaceous cinquefoil (*Potentilla cocinna*).

The clear cut areas in Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) contain most of the same grasses but also have been invaded by Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvensis*) and musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*).

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would renew the livestock grazing permit with no changes to the livestock grazing on Allotment # 07504 (Dice Hill) and Allotment # 07551 (McPhee). Since a best management practice (BMP) would be initiated for the new permit, implementation of the Proposed Action should improve the condition of the vegetation, especially in the identified marginally functioning grassy area.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Allotment 07551 (McPhee) and Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) were both assessed for compliance with the Standards on July 11, 2006. An interdisciplinary team (ID) from the Kremmling Field Office determined Allotment 07551 (McPhee) is in compliance with Standard # 3 (upland vegetation and wildlife). Allotment 07504 (Dice Hill) was also in compliance with Standard # 3 except for one grassy meadow that was determined to be marginally functioning. The permittee has agreed to place any salt or supplements at least ¼ mile from this area and to move his cattle away from this area when utilization rates dictate.

ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION:

Affected Environment: The location of the proposed action has allotments within the Dice Hill area that have travel management decisions made through the Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan, September 20, 1988. Allotment 07556 is within an area designated as 'Limited'. Under the Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan decision, The Dice Hill area is 'Limited to Designated Roads and Trails'. Snowmobiles operating on snow are exempt from this restriction. Designations are for BLM administered lands only and do not effect private lands or lands administered by other agencies. The designation purpose as stated within the plan is: "Protect vegetation which provides food and cover for wildlife, livestock and watershed protection; also reduce trespass onto private lands adjacent to the area during hunting season." Under the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan specific resource programs were identified for responsibility of the area. The identified resource programs responsible for Dice Hill were Wildlife Management, Soil, Water and Air Management, and Grazing Management. No known exemptions were made for grazing leases within the area under the limited designation. No updates to the identified designated route system of the area have taken place since the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan. Currently, the area has signing providing information on which routes are open or closed, including a kiosk with map and restrictions of the area. Under the current Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision, implementation level designations for Comprehensive Travel Management will be made. Implementing Colorado Comprehensive Travel Management throughout the state has been a high priority for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Instruction Memorandum No. CO-2007-020 states "In establishing designated road and trail networks through the planning process, field offices are able to manage all modes of travel on public lands. A well-designed travel system can direct use away from sensitive areas, yet provide quality recreational activities and access for commercial, administrative and recreational needs."

Environmental Consequences: Under the Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan decision, the Dice Hill area is 'Limited to Designated Roads and Trails'. Cross-country travel during times of moist soils or repetitive use will inherently create resource damage and a new established route through rutting and vegetation damage. The area is used for hunting, camping, horseback riding and wildlife viewing with moderate visitation. Once a route becomes established through cross-country travel, it becomes much more difficult to prevent visitors of the area from traveling on such routes due to their visibility. If visitors to the area see others traveling cross-country with motorized vehicles they may believe this is an accepted and allowed use of the area. Motorized cross-country travel not only creates damage to the resources, it leads to other unauthorized uses as well. Motorized cross-country travel would be detrimental to the area resources and be inconsistent with the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan decision, and upcoming Comprehensive Travel Management decisions. Impacts would be minimized with the design features of the proposed action.

Since the No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action, the environmental consequences would be the same.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

Livestock grazing has been an important use of the public lands in the Kremmling Field Office since the introduction of domestic livestock in the 1870s. Presently, the Field Office supports a grazing program on approximately 378,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands. Currently,

these public ranges are licensed at a level of approximately 39,726 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) for livestock.

For the purpose of this EA, the general geographic boundary for cumulative impact analysis is Middle Park. The lands administered by the Kremmling Field Office are divided north to south by the Continental Divide. The public lands to the north of the divide are generally referred to as North Park, and those to the south of the divide, Middle Park. In Middle Park, there are approximately 137,179 acres of BLM-administered public lands that are currently being grazed, and 13,070 AUMs that are licensed.

In looking at past actions within the geographic area over the past ten years, there have not been any major changes to the Middle Park allotments. A majority of the allotments have been assessed for standards and the permits modified where needed due to non-compliance with specific standards or new information that has arrived (i.e. new sage grouse lek). There are not any reasonably foreseeable actions outside of minor range improvement projects that are projected to occur in the Middle Park allotments. However, fast growing residential development is occurring and projected to continue on the east end of Middle Park. This loss of habitat is impacting Greater sage-grouse populations in Middle Park.

The Proposed Action would not change the number of AUMs that have been licensed on the allotment for the past ten years. Thus, there would be minimal cumulative impacts to Greater sage-grouse. In terms of cumulative impacts to cultural resources, grazing may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties throughout the Kremmling Field Office. However, as part of the BLM permit renewal process, allotments are being assessed and inventoried for cultural resources. If resources are found, and eligible for NRHP, mitigation is implemented. This process is attempting to mitigate any major cumulative impacts to cultural resources in the Kremmling Field Office.

In terms of cumulative impacts to cultural resources, grazing may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties throughout the Kremmling Field Office. However, as part of the BLM permit renewal process, allotments are being assessed and inventoried for cultural resources. If resources are found and eligible for NRHP, mitigation is implemented. This process is attempting to mitigate any major cumulative impacts to cultural resources in the Kremmling Field Office.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: Mitch Biekert, Manager Sheephorn Creek Ranch Starting in January 2007, a scoping process was begun to request information concerning the renewal of grazing permits/leases and to prioritize areas or allotments with issues and concerns. The Kremmling Field Office sent scoping letters, along with land status maps showing the affected allotments to the following groups and agencies: Colorado Division of Wildlife (Steamboat Springs, Walden, Hot Sulphur Springs, Fort Collins); District Board of Grazing Advisors; County Commissioners of Grand and Jackson counties; Stock Growers Association (Middle Park, North Park, Upper Big Laramie River Ranch Assoc.); Northwest Resource Advisory Council, United States Forest Service (Silverthorne, Granby, Walden); US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge); Tribal Councils (Arapaho, Shoshone, Southern Ute); Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; Ute Indian Tribe Uintah and Ouray Agency Business Committee; Colorado Environmental Coalition; and Colorado State Land Board (Lane Osborn).

The BLM Colorado State Office also mailed outreach letters concerning the renewal of grazing permits/leases to all Congressional offices, State and Federal agencies, and major environmental, conservation, and user group organizations.

In addition, individual letters were sent to the affected permittees/lessees informing them that their permit/lease was up for renewal and requested any information they wanted included in, or taken into consideration during the permit renewal process. A Notice of Public Scoping was posted on the internet at the Colorado BLM homepage, and in Grand and Jackson county newspapers asking for public input on permit/lease renewals and the assessment for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado within the Kremmling Field Office. This notice was followed up with an internet posting of the Kremmling Field Office prioritization of allotments and a determination as to which allotments would be assessed according to the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado. The proposed permit renewal was also posted on the Kremmling Field Office Internet NEPA register.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

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DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0015-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA and renew livestock grazing permit # 051792 to be in effect from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2019. Also, I accept the letter of relinquishment for Allotment 07562 (Sheephorn). This allotment will no longer be attached to grazing permit # 051792. This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: When a livestock grazing permit expires, it is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. Livestock grazing when properly managed in accordance with good rangeland ecology practices, has been proven to result in improved land health. The public benefits from public lands which are maintained in a healthy condition and are able to produce sustainable resources for a variety of uses.

The livestock producer benefits from a renewed livestock grazing permit/lease to graze forage on BLM managed land. Livestock grazing on BLM managed land is an integral part of the livestock producer's operation, and an important part of local rural economies.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Cultural:

-A Class III field inventory will be completed within the ten-year expiration period of the grazing permit. Mitigation would be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) if historic properties are located during the subsequent field inventory and if BLM determines that grazing activities would adversely impact the properties.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance with the renewed livestock grazing permit and its associated terms and conditions would be accomplished through the Kremmling Field Office Range Management Program. Livestock grazing would be monitored by the range staff and other area personnel, as appropriate, to ensure compliance. The Kremmling Field Office Range Monitoring Plan would be used to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate allotment condition. When activity plans have been developed covering an allotment, monitoring methods and schedules included in them would be applied to the allotment. Changes

would be made to the permit, based on monitoring, when changes are determined necessary to protect land health.

NAME OF PREPARER: Richard Johnson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE: 3/24/09

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 3/31/09

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Letter of Relinquishment and allotment map for Allotment 07562 (Sheephorn)
- 2) Livestock grazing permit # 051792 with standard terms and conditions
- 3) Map of Dice Hill: Limited to Designated Roads and Trails

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Renewal of Livestock Grazing Permit # 051792 for Sheephorn Creek Ranch

Project Leader: Richard Johnson

Date Proposal Received: (Only for external proposals)

Date Submitted for Comment: 12/4/08

Due Date for Comments: 1/31/09

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	1/20/2009	1/20/2009	BBW	Past actions have resulted in a cultural resource inventory to determine if those actions would cause potential adverse affects to known and unknown cultural resources sites from livestock grazing, motorized travel, and recreational use. When project undertakings are identified a cultural resource inventory would be conducted to determine if sites are present and their eligibility, project effects, and mitigation requirements if necessary.
Native American	1/20/2009	1/20/2009	BBW	Consultation was conducted on the original allotment renewal. Future undertakings would require tribal consultation to identify traditional cultural properties.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	MM	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	N/A	N/A	PB	

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality Belcher	2/24/09	PB	Air quality is not impacted by the permit renewal.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Cassel	3/24/09	SC	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	1/20/2009	BBW	Past actions have resulted in a cultural resource inventory to determine if those actions would cause potential adverse affects to known and unknown cultural resources sites from livestock grazing, motorized travel, and recreational use. When project undertakings are identified a

					cultural resource inventory would be conducted to determine if sites are present and their eligibility, project effects, and mitigation requirements if necessary.
NP	Environmental Justice	Cassel	3/24/09	SC	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique	Belcher	2/24/09	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Floodplains	Belcher	2/24/09	PB	The allotments are in the uplands and do not impact the floodplain.
NI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Johnson Torma Scott	1-7-09	MS	See Write-up.
NI	Migratory Birds	McGuire	1/21/2009	MM	The allotments are currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt	1/20/2009	BBW	Consultation was completed on the original allotment renewal. Future undertakings would require tribal consultation to identify traditional cultural properties.
NI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire	1/21/2009	MM	Allotment #7551 is designated as Lynx "Other" habitat. The allotments are currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson	1/7/09	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
NI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	Belcher	2/24/09	PB	The Proposed Action continues the present conditions, which are not impacting water quality.
NI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	2/24/09	PB	The Proposed Action continues the current use, which is not impacting wetlands and riparian zones.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Windsor	3/24/09	AW	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Monkouski	3/23/09	JM	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)					
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	Belcher	2/24/09	PB	See write-up
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson Torma Scott	1/8/09	RJ	See analysis in this EA
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	1/21/2009	MM	No aquatic wildlife is present in the allotments.
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	1/21/2009	MM	The allotments are currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
PI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	3/2/09	JJM	See analysis.
NI	Forest Management	K. Belcher	1/30/2009	KB	No impact to forest resources.
NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	1/7/09	KH	No impacts.

NP	Fire	Wyatt	1/20/2009	BBW	Grazing would reduce light flashy fuels.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	2/24/09	PB	There are no hydrologic impacts or water right concerns from the Proposed Action.
NI	Paleontology	Rupp	1/16/2009	FGR	No impacts to fossil resources from renewing permit, or the no action alternative. Proposed ground disturbing projects will be reviewed on a project by project basis to determine the need for paleontological inventory.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	3/2/09	JJM	No impacts.
PI	Range Management	Johnson Torma Scott	1/8/09	RJ	See analysis in this EA
NP	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	12/16/08	SC	There are no leases, permits or ROWs in the location of the proposed action.
NI	Recreation	Monkouski Windsor	3/2/09	JJM	Under the proposed action no impacts would occur to recreational opportunities that include Off Highway Vehicle use, camping, hunting, hiking, and watching wildlife.
NI	Socio-Economics	Cassel	3/24/09	SC	Since there would be no change in AUMs, except for the relinquishment by the permittee, there would be no socio-economic impacts.
NI	Visual Resources	Windsor	1/30/09	AW	Visual resources would not be impacted by the proposed action or the no action alternative.
NI	Cumulative Impact Summary	Cassel	3/24/09	SC	See Analysis
FINAL REVIEW					
	P&E Coordinator	Cassel			